GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5410
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2007
MINERAL EXPLORATION WORK
Ravindran Shri Pannian

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the mineral exploration work undertaken in various States, particularly in Kerala by the Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd.;

(b) whether the commercial exploration of the mining activities has started in such areas ;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the future prospects of minings in Kerala ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA)

(a) Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL), a public sector undertaking under the administrative control of the Ministry of Mines, has carried out detailed exploration for various minerals in several states of the country. So far, it has established 1,26,513 million tonnes of mineral reserves. The state wise reserves established are shown in Annexure.

In Kerala state, MECL has carried out preliminary exploration for gold and detailed exploration for limestone, as per details below :-

Mineral	Block	District	Reserves (million tonnes)
Gold	Maruda- Nilambur	Mallapuram	1.07
Limestone	Walayar	Palakkad	23.66

(b) & (c) In the state of Kerala, based on the limestone reserves established by MECL at Walayar limestone deposit, a cement plant was established by M/s Malabar Cement.

The other mineral prospects where exploitation /mining activities have been taken up based on the work done by MECL, are given below:-

(i) Panchpatmali Bauxite deposit part of east coast bauxite deposit, have been developed by National Aluminum Company Limited (NALCO);

(ii) Malanjkhand copper prospect has been developed through opencast by Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL);

(iii) Banwas Copper deposit is being exploited by HCL;

(iv) Hutti Gold Mines Limited (HGML) has taken up exploitation of gold at Hutti Gold Deposit;

(v) Bhaplimali bauxite deposit has been mined by INDAL;

(vi) A number of coal blocks explored by MECL have been developed by subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd., in the state of Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, etc.;

(vii) Exploration efforts of MECL for lignite deposits have lead to setting up of pit head power plant at Rajasthan, Gujarat & Tamil Nadu.

(d) Based on the resources of various minerals in Kerala, possibilities exist for mining of granite, garnet, graphite, gold, iron ore (magnetite), qrartz/silica sand, kyanite and talc/steatite/soap stone, etc. in future.